

handle and elongate second and third portions each having an end free to flex in a direction transverse to a longitudinal axis of the handle.

Applicant also respectfully traverses the restriction requirement on the grounds that claim 20 is generic and reads onto both the embodiment of Figs 4 and 5 as well as the embodiment of Figs. 6 and 7 since the vibration damper of each embodiment has a first portion positioned in and engaged with the handle and a second portion free to flex in the handle in a direction transverse to a longitudinal axis of the handle, the first portion being axially spaced from the second portion. In the configuration shown in Figs. 6 and 7 as more particularly defined in dependent claim 21, the damper has an undistorted shape substantially comprising a toroid.

Applicant has amended claim 20 to eliminate the unnecessary requirement that the handle have an enlarged portion. Additionally, the claim has been amended to state that the object striking portion is operatively associated with the handle instead of stating that it is affixed to the handle since the latter language may be unnecessarily narrowly interpreted to eliminate protection for an arrangement in which the handle and object striking portion are an integral piece, i.e., requiring that the object striking portion be a separate part which is physically connected to the handle.

Favorable reconsideration and early allowance is respectfully requested. A

telephone call to the undersigned will be appreciated to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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